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## Marginal Column

By PATRICK O'DONOVAN

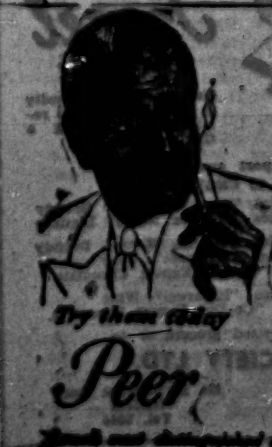
THE Korean peace talks at Panmunjom have become a distressing spectacle. They have not appeared to reflect the expressed desires of the nations concerned for a settlement of this unending war. They seem more like a reflection of words and documents of the fighting that is still going on in the hills around the Korean camp. Each day has brought the same exhibition of ill-temper, double-talk and confused argument between the delegations whose public behaviour is carefully designed to demonstrate a frozen hatred.

ALTHOUGH the basis of disagreement is now in fact clear, the casual observer at any day's session might well wonder what it is all about. The brief interchanges are reported verbatim to the Press who reports them with the intensity of sports reporters trying to assess the chances of victory after each round of a boxing match. The diplomacy is done by men who are not diplomats but plain soldiers, who are allowed no initiative and who can do little but register decisions made in Peking and Tokyo. It has become a propaganda contest. The final goal has often been obscured because neither delegation can pass any opportunity to score off their opponent. The old principle of diplomacy, that nothing is of importance unless it contributes to an achievement of the final aim is not applied here.

BUT, however distressing the halting tedious progress of the talks may be, it certainly does not preclude their collapse. Nothing has happened since the talks were fixed on April 11 that could change the original intention of the Americans or the Chinese. And if, as most diplomats in Korea think likely, the Chinese were sincere in wanting an armistice, then an armistice is still likely. The ugly headlines are apparently rejected in the diplomatic already seen in the United Nations, in Berlin and at the Austrian Peace Treaty talks, but here less skillfully performed, more minutely reported and more concentrated than ever before. Recent developments have even strengthened the belief that the Chinese are tired of fighting.

DISAGREEMENT is still over the disposal of prisoners of war who refuse repatriation. The difficulty in resolving this disagreement lies in the fact that the verdict of the 48,000 prisoners of war who have experienced Asian Communism and have apparently rejected it — at the cost of rejecting their homes and families, too — has become of paramount importance. It is now a question, a huge one, of "face" to both sides. Every Communist proposal so far has had at its heart the desire to have a free hand in the re-indoctrination of P.W.'s in order to reverse the verdict against Communism, and perhaps also the disbelief that the verdict was ever made. The Americans refuse to use force on reluctant prisoners, do not trust the Chinese methods of re-indoctrination or the good faith of the Chinese towards these men; they also fear the immense embarrassment of a public reversal of the prisoners' attitude as it now stands.

EVEN the encouraging details of Communist proposals made last week merely show the question of how the P.W.'s who stay firm in their refusal to be repatriated are to be treated and suggest that their fate is left to be decided by the political conference that must follow an armistice. But under their vituperation and cloudy words the Communists have made attempts to put forward genuine suggestions. Concessions and new suggestions have all come from their side, although admittedly it is easier for the Communists to switch their tactics or contradict themselves. It would be foolish to predict when or how an armistice might come, but a reasonable optimism over the end of the killing in Korea is more than ever in order.



## U.S. Not in Accord With Churchill's Plan for Talks

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP).—The State Department indicated today that the U.S. Government disagrees with British Prime Minister Churchill's statement that the time is ripe for a top level conference of world powers.

In the first official U.S. reaction to Mr. Churchill's proposal, Department Press Officer Michael McDermott emphasized that the U.S. and all free world allies are seeking ways to achieve peace. But he pointed out that on April 16 President Eisenhower outlined a course of action in Asia and Europe for the Soviet Union to demonstrate its sincerity to settle East-West differences. McDermott said the president also had expressed his willingness to reduce existing tensions and to meet the Russians half-way "when and if there is concrete evidence that such a meeting would produce positive results."

## Nam Says U.N. Plan Menaces Truce Talks

PANMUNJOM, Wednesday (Reuters).—Chief Communist delegate, General Nam Il, described today's U.N. counter-proposal for a truce as "threatening the prospect of the whole armistice negotiations." They would be "a step backwards," he said. "I hope you will reconsider them."

General William Harrison, chief U.N. negotiator, said today that the counter-plan was "self-explanatory" and, as far as he thought, "practicable." The U.N. proposed that the projected five-nation repatriation commission should take custody of non-Koreans only and that all Koreans refusing repatriation should be freed as civilians when an armistice is declared.

They suggested that the commission should operate for four days instead of the four months proposed by the Communists. This, they said, was more in the spirit of the Geneva Convention, and would prevent prisoners being coerced into going home merely because they might think they would otherwise stay in custody indefinitely. The Allies said the Communists should lead the Repatriation Commission and be the only nation to have emergency powers to release prisoners. The Communists listed only 15,000 of about 48,000 U.N. prisoners, and the Communists refused to accept an armistice because effective General Harrison said that when the Communists refused to accept an armistice because effective General Harrison said that when the Communists refused to accept an armistice because effective

## Commons Voice Concern Over Egyptian Threat to Israel

LONDON, Wednesday, (INA).—Winding up the House of Commons foreign affairs debate last night, Under Secretary Anthony Nutting declared that the Egyptian demand for sole right to decide, or at least to veto, the use to which British stores and installations in the Suez Canal Zone are put would have made it "impossible for Britain to fulfill her obligations towards Israel."

It was therefore essential that the British Government reach agreement about the future of the base, he said.

Mrs. Jennie Lee (Labour) had said during the debate that many in the opposition had been delighted by the Prime Minister's and other Conservative references to Israel, and that the honour of the Government, the opposition and all of us is at stake in seeing that, having achieved their corner of the world, the Jews shall be helped to enjoy security and development.

## Nagib Attacks Churchill's Encouragement of Israel

CAIRO, Wednesday (UP).—Prime Minister Nagib said today that British Prime Minister Churchill's words of encouragement to Israel were a "threat to Egypt and the Arabs."

Nagib doubted the Premier's sincerity, however, and said he thought the references aimed at "diverting to Israel the overwhelming Arab hatred for imperialism, so that we overlook the real objectives of our strong movement."

Meanwhile, the New Eastern Arab Broadcasting Station reported "reliable" sources here are revealing that Egypt had failed to secure U.S. support for its demands being taken into consideration by the U.S. State Department.

It added that the news of Israel's withdrawal from the Suez Canal Zone and head over the base to the Egyptians without setting alight a second round of war against Israel.

He suggested that a small number of British troops in the Canal city would prevent this. Also, using the railways there for work could help improve Israel-Arab relations.

Mr. C. Albert (Conservative) declared "it is time for the security of the Middle East and who are placed, day in, day out, in the maintenance of the integrity of Israel to be faced with their responsibilities in this matter."

Services and consular officials in the Canal Zone, Mr. Albert said, "it is time for an international body to be set up to ensure that the Canal Zone is not used as a base for the aggression of any one power against the integrity of Israel."

## Cabinet Approves Bill On Relief Loan

Jerusalem POST Reporter

The draft of a Bill empowering the collection of a forced loan for unemployment relief work was approved by the Cabinet in Jerusalem yesterday. The loan, to be made by taxpayers, will be up to IL15m. and will be considered an advance on future income tax payments which the Treasury will return in the form of income tax deductions within three years, beginning with the 1954/55 fiscal year.

## Gov't to Discuss U.S. Loan with Dulles

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—The foreign currency debt which would shortly fall due amounted to \$70,000,000 and debts aggregating \$40,000,000 would fall due shortly afterwards, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Pinchas Ben-Zur, said tonight at a meeting of the Council of the General Economic. The Minister declared that the consolidation of these debts was of vital importance and could be achieved through a loan from the U.S. Government. This would be one of the subjects discussed tomorrow with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles.

Mr. Ben-Zur said that the State must cease to rely upon foreign aid funds for the purchase of consumer goods because this resource was uncertain. Foreign aid always entailed some political concessions.

The Treasury lacked the greater part of the funds required for the Development Budget because the Reparations goods had been held up. This was due to the difficulty of finding local purchasers in the present non-liquid economy. He attributed the situation to the doubling of prices in 14 months.

"Partial Decentralization"

The Minister said that most prices, with the exception of those of the most essential foods, must eventually be calculated at the "wholesale rate of exchange." He believed that the real rate was IL1.600 to IL1.800 for a dollar. That was why he had advocated the partial decentralization of foreign currency, he said.

Answering critics within the party who had said that the General Zionist representatives in the Cabinet were blindly following Mapai, Mr. Ben-Zur said that the similar grievances within Mapai were obvious. He believed that Mr. Ben-Gurion was putting all his weight behind the move to get approval for the unified education programme.

The Party Secretary Mr. Y. Tamar, said that membership was now 30,000 representing an increase of 1,000 in the past month.

Mr. J. Torenz, Vice-President of the Zionist Organization of America, said the Republican Administration was just as friendly to Israel as the Democrats had been.

## Relief Works Approved

The Cabinet also approved a number of relief works planned to provide for 400,000 to 600,000 workdays within the next three or four months. The Treasury will provide funds for this purpose, though again it has not yet been decided whether the projects should be included under the Development or Ordinary Budget. They will include further soil conservation projects, afforestation, soil improvement and the reclamation of abandoned fruit groves.

The works projects are planned in such a way as to make wages the principal cost, and they will be carried out in the areas worst hit by unemployment. Normally, they would provide employment for about 8-9,000 men, but under the "20 work days a month" scheme, some 12,000 will actually be employed. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is drafting special unemployment projects for industry.

The scheme will go into operation as soon as details have been approved by the Economic Minister's Committee.

The official communiqué stated: Further to its Monday resolution on mobilizing special means to provide work for the unemployed, the Cabinet, at a special meeting, decided to table a Bill for the purpose of providing income tax payers, which is to total not more than 150,000 workdays, to be returned within three years commencing with the 1954/55 fiscal year by deducting income tax payments or by other means.

A programme to organize jobs to provide employment, envisaging more than 80,000 workdays in the next three to four months, was submitted to the Cabinet. These projects will be immediately after the approval of the plan are approved by the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs.

## C.O.L. INDEX UP 3 POINTS

The Cost-of-Living Index rose by three points in April to 187 points, the Central Bureau of Statistics and Economic Research announced yesterday. Pay envelopes will not be affected this month.

The next Cost-of-Living agreement normally would be signed in June. When the last agreement was signed on March 17, however, the Manufacturers' Association informed the Histadrut that it had asked the Government to freeze wages and prices.

Since September, 1951 (the base month of 100 points) the index rose as follows: January, 113; April, 144; September, 160; October, 172; November, 175; December, 178 (all in 1952). This year it rose as follows: January, 181; February, 182; March, 184; and this month, 187.

## Israel Receives \$75m. On Reparations Account

BOEN, Wednesday (AP).—The West German authorities have made available to Israel 75 million marks (about \$75m.) as the first payment of the Reparations account. The U.S. State Department said today.

A few items have already been shipped to Israel and delivery is expected to begin in June, it is learned.

Dr. Yehudi said that Germany deposited her first installment of 100 million marks on March 11 and would pay the third instalment of 100 million marks on August 11. He said the payments made by Germany would be used for the reconstruction of Israel and for the maintenance of the Jewish community in Germany.

## British Dispatch More Troops To Suez Canal Zone

LONDON, Wednesday (UP).—Britain has sent battle-equipped Marine commandos from Malta to reinforce the 80,000-man British garrison in the Suez Canal Zone. In what officials here described today as "a precautionary measure."

Ismaïlia, chief town in the Suez Canal Zone, was declared, out of bounds to British troops tonight with the beginning of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. U.S. Ambassador Winthrop Aldrich called on Prime Minister Churchill at No. 10 Downing Street today, and it was understood that they discussed the brewing Egyptian crisis.

Although the visit was officially described as "routine," authoritative sources said that the two discussed Egypt and made a general tour of other pressing subjects.

The decision to reinforce the Zone was taken simultaneously with yesterday's disclosure in Parliament that there had been at least 30 incidents since April 1 involving attacks on British stationed there. Tension in the Zone heightened as it became more apparent that a breakdown in the Anglo-Egyptian treaty negotiations could not be far away.

## PAKISTAN DISMISSES ARAB FACT

CALCUTTA, Wednesday (Reuters).—Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammed Ali, said here today that the proposed United Arab Command put forward at the recent meeting of the League Council "does not appeal to us."

## Visitors Welcome 'Direct Exchange' of Views

LYDIA AIRPORT, Wednesday.—"The chance to see for ourselves what is being done here and the opportunity for a direct exchange of views between Mr. Stassen, myself and your leaders will, I am confident, be mutually beneficial," the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, said here in a prepared statement today. Together with Mr. Harold Stassen, Director of Mutual Security and their party, Mr. Dulles arrived in Israel at the Lydia Airport today. The U.S. Military Air Transport Service, which touched down on the cleared airfield at 1.40 this afternoon.

A guard of honour of 48 paratroopers and two officers was drawn up in two open files before the Terminal building, and as the plane came to a halt, two Israeli policemen followed by two U.S. Embassy Marine Corps guards, carrying carbines, strode forward, followed by terminal staff bringing up the aircraft stairs.

When Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen stepped from the plane, they were greeted by Mr. Francis H. Russell, Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy, who introduced them to Foreign Minister Sharet. Mr. Dulles remarked "nothing but the best wishes for the introduction, as they were already acquainted. Mr. Sharet then presented to the visitors the welcoming 'Israel' delegation which was composed of Mr. T. Kollet, representing the Prime Minister; Agnes-Alit T. Carmel, President of Ben-Zvi's Ahiya de Camp, who delivered a message of greeting from the President; Dr. M. Simon, Chief of Protocol, and Mr. Simuel Bender, Director of the U.S. Division at the Foreign Ministry.

## Embassy Personnel

Embassy personnel present included Mr. Bruce McDaniel, T.O.A. Mission Chief; Mr. Owen Jones, First Secretary; Mr. Milton Fried, Chief of the Political Section; Lt. Col. Michael Kane, Army Attache, and Lt. Col. Kenneth Locke, Air Attache. The wives of many of the American staff were present at the airport, standing high on the roof of the Terminal building beneath a large Stars and Stripes which flew from the top mast in honour of the visitors.

After briefly reviewing the guard of honour, Mr. Dulles was escorted to a side balcony of the Airport building, where he read his statement to a large crowd of reporters and photographers and to Kol Yisrael microphones. Mr. Sharet introduced Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen in Hebrew and English, and Mr. Dulles then made the statement.

(See adjacent column)

After the statement the party left the heavily-guarded airfield with a strong police escort by car and behind, and drove to Mr. Russell's residence in Ramat Gan, where they had lunch.

Hundreds of policemen had been called in from all parts of the country to guard the Airport, Ramat Gan, Tel Aviv and the roads between, and from the early morning the Airport had been cleared of all persons not on urgent duty. Police armed with tommy-guns were posted on the roofs of houses in villages on the way from the Airport, and other policemen were on duty in Ramat Gan and on the roads outside Mahane Israel. There were no demonstrations, and no signs or posters relating to Mr. Dulles' visit were to be seen anywhere.

After lunch, Mr. Dulles, Mr.

## Dulles Party at Hakirya For Israel-Arab Relations Talks



Mr. Sharet, Mr. Stassen and Mr. Dulles (left to right) reviewing the Guard of Honour of paratroopers upon the arrival of the visiting American party at Lydda Airport yesterday afternoon. (Photo by Schlesinger)

## Confer with B.G. In Jerusalem Today

U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, Mutual Security Director Harold Stassen and members of their party held two informal conferences with Foreign Minister Moshe Sharet and senior Ministry and Cabinet officials at Hakirya shortly after 8 p.m. yesterday.

Upon arrival at the Foreign Ministry at 3.15, the party split into two groups for separate and parallel discussions and a general talk on problems of Israel-Arab relations. The conference, which ended at about 7 o'clock, was understood to have been held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Division into two groups was arranged as it was thought that in this way the talks would be both more informal and instructive.

The first group was presided over by the Foreign Minister and was attended by Mr. Dulles, Mr. Stassen, Mr. Henry Byrds, Mr. Douglas MacArthur, Mr. Francis Russell, Mr. Bruce McDaniel, Mr. Milton Fried, Mr. Michael Comay, Mr. Reuben Shiloah and Mr. A. Bender.

The second group, headed by Mr. Walter Eytan, was composed of Lt. Col. Stephen J. Meade, Mr. Roderic O'Connor, Mr. Fred L. Hadad, Mr. Gammon and Mr. Leo Kahn.

Talks Entirely Political

While yesterday's talks were entirely political, it is understood that economic subjects will also be brought up at today's meetings. That with Prime Minister Ben-Gurion will also be attended by Mr. Sharet, while a larger meeting will later be held with Finance Minister Eshkol and Commerce and Industry Minister Abba Hushi, being present.

At the dinner last night given by the Foreign Minister and Mr. Sharet at their Tel Aviv residence, the guests were Mr. Dulles, Mr. Stassen, Mr. MacArthur, Mr. Byrds, Mr. Russell, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Fried, Mr. Comay, Mr. Shiloah, Mr. Bender, Mr. Eytan, Mr. Meade, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Hadad, Mr. Gammon and Mr. Kahn.

It is understood that discussions were held during and after dinner. The visitors spent the night at the Shalom Hotel and were leaving for Tel Aviv this morning. Mr. Dulles will be in Tel Aviv until tomorrow, when he will be in Jerusalem. Mr. Stassen will be in Jerusalem until tomorrow, when he will be in Jerusalem. Mr. Sharet will be in Jerusalem until tomorrow, when he will be in Jerusalem.

## 'HAPPY TO BE IN ISRAEL'

"Mr. Stassen and I are happy to be in Israel, upon the invitation of its Government, and are looking forward to discussions with Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, Foreign Minister Sharet and other leading Israelis," Mr. Dulles said upon his arrival at Lydda Airport yesterday.

"We are making this trip to the countries of the Near and Middle East at the request of President Eisenhower, in order to obtain first-hand information and understanding of the situations in the countries which we have visited, and in order to show the friendship of our Government and people for the countries of this area."

We know of the great progress which has been made by Israel

## DULLES GETS AIR VIEW OF SUEZ

FATID, Suez Canal, Wednesday (Reuters).—Mr. John Foster Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, flew over the Suez Canal Zone today to see the giant British military installations before leaving for Israel.

A military spokesman said that the flight was the result of Mr. Dulles' expressed wish

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